

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preserving a user state in a single application used to process transactions to a plurality of users in a stateless online environment, comprising:

providing milestones at predetermined locations in the application within a workflow of the application, the application having a series of executable workflow processes and being loaded on a server, each milestone comprising a checkpoint in the runtime execution of the application;

associating a user with a particular milestone; and

automatically transporting the user to the particular milestone when the user logs into the application following an interruption in execution of the application.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the associating step comprises associating the user with a particular milestone based on a user identification.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising recording the association of the user with the particular milestone in a persistent storage on the server to preserve the user state.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising recording data corresponding to the particular milestone in the persistent storage.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined locations correspond to tasks in the workflow.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the associating step is performed in response to completion by the user of a task in the workflow corresponding to the particular workflow.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising deleting all associations upon completion of the workflow by the user, wherein the application is a web application.

8-20. (Canceled).